

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- It was learned that an individual recruiting campaign was under way among candidates for final examinations at all high schools in the GDR including Brandenburg/Havel and Potsdam during the period of preparations for vacation examinations. Those few candidates for final examination who did not have FDJ membership and those whose fathers were known to be functionaries of bourgeois parties or who were known to maintain close relations to the church (Junge Gemeinde - Young Community or Katholische Pfarrjugend - Catholic Youth) were admitted on purpose. The youths were individually approached by a young KVP officer in civilian clothes in the presence of the director of the school and the FDJ leader of the school. They were first asked about their future plans and university studies although they had previously reported their intentions in early January. Hardly one percent of the youths wanted to become Vopo officers. The director of the school then declared that university study except for political economy and teacher training would not be possible. The FDJ representative subsequently came to speak of "the necessity of voluntary defense", and the accomplishments of the workers' and the peasants' state. He was then followed by the VP recruiter who said that the KVP needed enthusiastic young people, that is, graduates from high schools, who would sign for a 12-year term of service. He stressed the good prospects and possibilities a VP officer would have and that, upon completion of the 12-year-term or, in some cases, even earlier, a VP officer would be taken over by the state administration as police or athletic officer. He added that there was a possibility of resuming university study during the years of service without cutting regular pay. In some instances, the prospect of being taken into diplomatic service was used as special motive. It was further announced that, in case of enrollment with the KVP there would be "certain mitigations" during the final examinations. At last the threat was always made that students who failed the examinations could not start on a officer's career. No indications as to the introduction of universal military service were given.

2. A large-scale recruiting action for the KVP was launched at all universities and other high schools in the GDR under the special slogan that the students "were bound in gratitude to the state". The recruiting personnel generally tried to have the students sign

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- 2 -

for a 3 to 5-year term of service. Female students were also addressed. Protestant and Catholic student groups were excluded from the campaign, which was said to have been unusually successful. Approximately 1,000 students, including about 50 female students, many SED party members who signed up on party order, and active FDJ members from East Berlin high schools allegedly signed for service with the KVP. Again the question of a future universal compulsory military service did not come up. The attendance of the individual courses of the Gesellschaft fuer Sport und Technik (Association for Athletic Activity and Technical Training) (GST) was compulsory except for students of the theological faculty and active members of Christian faiths. The recruiting of students of the teacher-training faculty was handled with remarkable reserve. This was probably due to the fact that the GDR is in urgent need of teachers.


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